The Lions' Pride

Saint Leo University • Friday, October 6, 2017 • Volume LVII No. 6 • Since 1965

Photo by Cassidy Whitaker

**Following the mass shooting that occurred in Las Vegas on Sunday night, University President Dr. Lennox stated, "Our condolences go out to those affected by this grievous act. It is senseless. This occasion should make us think how precious the gift of life is and make us think how we should live our lives every single day."**

# The Criminalistics of the Las Vegas Mass Shooting

**By Ilouisa Lourdes Salazar & Travis Farmer**

Multimedia Manager & Staff Writer

On the night of Oct. 1 at 10:08 p.m., tragic struck Las Vegas, Nevada. A man identified as Stephen Paddock opened fire, using an automatic weapon on a crowd of concert goers from the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay Hotel and Casino.

With over 500 people injured and over 50 killed, the event became known as the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history.

As of Oct. 3, the motive of the suspect is currently unknown but remains under investigation.

Criminal Justice Assistant Professor Dr. Joseph Cillo stated that Paddock "fits the criteria for a mass killer." Cillo said, "he may have been acting out of imagined insult and/or injury," further questioning whether Paddock was aware of his reasons. "We may never know." "Impulse is a possibility," continued Cillo.

Many motives are possible, when dealing with mass murderers. For example, Timothy McVeigh was the person behind the Oklahoma City Bombing in 1995, killing 168 people. McVeigh's motivations comprised of his anger toward the government and for the injustice he saw in both the Waco and Ruby Ridge events.

A mass killer, or mass murderer, is different from a serial killer. According to Cillo, mass murderers tend to kill for different reasons. In addition mass murderers do not usually exhibit signs in early childhood years; whereas serial killers do. Another factor that differs between the types, is that of a numerical one. In order to be considered a mass murderer someone has to kill four or more victims at one time, while serial killers have to murder at three separate occasions taking place over a month in order to be considered a serial killer by the FBI, according to Cillo.

"Most killers fall into three categories: sociological, biological, and psychological," explained Cillo. It was discovered that the father of the suspect, Benjamin Hoskins Paddock, had a criminal background. He was a bank robber and was on the FBI's most wanted list for eight years, and subsquently spent time in prison. The fact that both the father and the son were involved in criminal activities suggests that a genetic link may be possible, but ultimately not probable.

The gun control laws in Nevada may be up for questioning and review now. According to the case McDonald V. Chicago (2010), the right to bear arms is an essential concept of self-defense. In this Supreme Court case, Justice Alito wrote that self-defense is "at the core" of the 2nd Amendment. This opinion set legal precedent that the 2nd Amendment is truly based around self-defense.

Cillo emphasized that protection against gun violence and another shooting incident such as this one is challenging to put into place since Paddock was located in an entirely different area than the concert. There is a balance between violating an individual's rights and protecting people from future situations such as this one.

This shooting has also reinvigorated the debate on how the media covers mass shooters. Cillo explained that some pundits and experts have argued that the way the media covers mass shooters may "put their name in lights", paving the way for copycats. However, Cillo is not convinced. "Copy Cats will exist regardless of coverage," he stated.

The release of video footage from citizens who attended the concert serves to educate the public on the matter at hand. According to Cillo, when people become "aware of the threat," the media will start to become less

When people become aware of the threat, they can understand that society is violent and that acts like this will continue to happen among different age groups.

Since the F.B.I has ruled out terrorism, they will not be taking the case according to Charlotte Braziel, professor of crimilastics and a retired F.B.I agent. However, since the number killed is so large they will help. [The F.B.I] will be assisting investigators, victims and advocates. Flags on University Campus will fly at half-mast until sunset on Oct 6. Additionally, the University is working on having a blood drive on campus to receive donations.

When a tragedy as sudden and senseless as this occurs, all that is left in its wake are the thoughts of how could this be prevented in the future.

Criminal experts such as Cillo and Braziel are vital voices in helping to understand how events such as this can happen.

The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and the Red Cross have set up a hotline at (866) 535-5654 for people still attempting to contact loved ones that may have been at the concert.

# Editorial

## Athletes Bring the Nation to its Knees

**By Travis Farmer**
Staff Writer

In recent months, there has been a growing sentiment among professional athletes to kneel during the national anthem at sporting events. This action has been done for a myriad of reasons and has attained many different opinions from many sides. With attitudes ranging from full-on support to violent condemnation, the anthem and the flag have become another battleground for a nation already viciously divided.

The controversy began in 2016 with Colin Kaepernick, the then-starting quarterback of the San Francisco 49ers, sitting during the playing of the Star-Spangled Banner at an NFL game.

Throughout the season, the sitting became kneeling during the anthem after Kaepernick consulted Nate Boyer, another NFL player, and Green Beret military veteran. Kaepernick stated that the kneeling was out of respect for former and acting military members and that it was what Boyer advised Kaepernick to do rather than sitting. Kaepernick also stated that the action was in protest of the recent highly publicized shootings of various African Americans by police officers. The same events that led to the formation of the Black Lives Matter movement also led to Kaepernick's kneeling.

During the 2017 season, Kaepernick became a free agent, meaning that he was no longer the starting quarterback for the 49ers. Throughout the season, he remained unemployed, leading many to wonder about the true reason why he was remaining unsigned.

Statistics website FiveThirtyEight concluded that it is "…obvious Kaepernick is being frozen out for his political opinions." The site used the Total Quarterback Rating, an objective way to rate quarterbacks created by ESPN, to say that Kaepernick is an "above average" quarterback and that no other player with skill similar to him had remained unemployed as long as he had.

This dispelled the belief that Kaepernick was remaining unsigned due to his skill and not his political statements. In March, President Trump took credit for Kaepernick remaining unemployed. Trump stated that no team would sign Kaepernick because they were afraid that he (Trump) would use Twitter and his position to create a "PR crisis." This led to a very concerning thought that Trump would later expound on: is it right for the President to call for somebody to be unemployed?

Just this past September, after a few months of continued racial tensions and kneeling protests, Trump took to Twitter to say that NFL players who did not stand during the national anthem should be fired or suspended. This led to national outcry and support for the movement, leading to the trending of #TakeAKnee on Twitter. Many players and celebrities from all backgrounds came out of the woodwork to voice their opinions on Trump, the NFL, and the anthem.

Some people cited that the players' free speech gave them the right to do whatever they like, as it is not illegal to kneel during the anthem. Other people voiced their support for Trump, citing that you do not have a right to free speech when you are at work. However, this is not a matter of the players versus the teams' coaches and owners. Many coaches and team owners have also recently taken a knee or even stayed in the locker rooms during the playing of the anthem. An example of this is Jerry Jones, owner of the Dallas Cowboys, who took a knee with his players.

Many people are arguing that Trump is using intimidation and threats in stating that players should be fired for exercising their freedom of speech. There have even been lawsuits filed, with Democratic lawyers citing that Trump is violating 18 U.S. Code § 227, which makes it a federal crime for any government employee to influence or threaten to influence a private company's employment decisions. If violated, the code has the ability to fine the perpetrator or to sentence them to as many as 15 years in prison.

Even more people on social media and news pundits have pointed out the unfairness of Trump calling athletes who kneel in protest "sons of bitches" while calling the white supremacists who attended the deadly Charlottesville protests "very fine people."

Athletes from other sports have also expressed their displeasure towards Trump, with Stephan Curry of the Golden State Warriors basketball team denying Trump's invitation to the White House. After Curry's denial, Trump tweeted that the invitation was withdrawn, leading to Lebron James noting in a tweet at Trump that there was no invitation to withdraw if Curry had already declined, even calling the President a "bum."

Dale Earnhardt Jr., NASCAR royalty to many fans of the very conservative-leaning sport, also took the side of the kneeling movement. He tweeted that all Americans are granted rights to peaceful protest, adding a John F. Kennedy quote that reads, "Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable." This tweet came only moments after Trump spoke in support of NASCAR owners stating that any driver who did not stand for the anthem would be fired.

In times of a nation so divided, it is important for people to be able to speak their minds. With athletes, especially major stars like Lebron James and Stephen Curry that have so many children and teenaged fans that look up to them, it would almost be a disservice to the country not to speak their minds and give their fans the bravery to also speak for what they believe in.

If athletes feel so strongly about something that they believe, they should speak about it on their platforms. It would be irresponsible for them not to do so. If free speech and peaceful protest are stifled, then what else is there to do?

Photo credit: @TheAtlantic

**A poll conducted by USA Today found that over two-thirds (68 percent) of responders said that Trump's call for NFL owners to fire players and for fans to boycott their game was inappropriate. Twenty-seven percent of responders agreed with the President's response.**


### Newsroom

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# Campus News

## Camelot to Woodstock: The Sound of a Decade

**By Marie Umholtz**
Contributing Writer

Saint Leo University's Fall Faculty Recital, "Camelot to Woodstock: Music of the 60s," recalled a time of revolution in culture and music. The event opened at 7:00 p.m. in the Selby Auditorium on Tuesday, Sept. 26, with a cover of "Camelot," written by Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe.

This score from the hit musical of the same name was performed by soprano Cynthia Selph, instructor of music and director of Saint Leo Singers; violinist Kasia Dolinska, director of the string ensemble; bassist Mauricio Rodriguez, adjunct professor of music and director of jazz ensemble; and pianist Inna Korotkevitch, piano instructor and staff accompanist.

When asked about their preparation process, Selph explained, "We usually figure out a repertoire during summer and get down to work when we get back in August."

From there, they practice for about one month to six weeks.

As the School of Arts and Science's theme for the 2017-2018 academic year is "REVOLUTION: Saint Leo Remembers the 60s," the recital included an assortment of music genres from the decade with educational facts about their historical context.

Jennifer Orendorf, the administrator of events and special programs at Saint Leo University, explained that the department is "exploring a decade both inside curricula and outside curricula."

"Camelot" was among the songs Grace Brumby performed in her historic performance at the White House during John F. Kennedy's presidency. The recital selected four other pieces from Brumby's performance, as well as "Song of the Birds," originally performed by Pablo Casals at his 1961 White House concert.

Korotkevitch and Dolinska performed a series of iconic film scores, including Francis Lai's "Concerto for a Love's Ending" from "Love is a Beautiful Thing" and the themes of "Love Story" by Lai and "Romeo and Juliet" by Nino Rota.

When she heard about this year's theme, Korotkevitch was ecstatic.

"Music from movies was my first choice," she said.

Dolinska said she especially enjoyed Italian and French scores from the 1960's, and she appreciates the depth of the performed scores and their corresponding films.

"I think it would be great for young generations to reach out and see films of the period," she said, seeing as how many students may not be familiar with such pieces.

Anapaula Rios-Rosales, a freshman at Saint Leo University, wanted to try 1960's music and decided to attend the recital after hearing about it in her Spirituals of Rock and Roll class and Saint Leo University's newsletter. She particularly enjoyed the violin pieces.

The show ended with a performance of Joni Mitchell's "Woodstock," a song embodying the massive 1969 music festival and arranged by Rodriguez for the evening's performance.

Coming full circle from historic performances, to beloved soundtracks, and to iconic 1960's rock and country, this was a fitting ending to define the revolutionary decade.

Before the show ended, Gianna Russo, instructor of English, recited "Old Orange Avenue" and an excerpt from "Old South Carriage Tours," original poems referencing Tampa's 1967 riots.

Pamela DeCius, instructor of fine arts and humanities, sings hit "Crazy," composed by Willie Nelson in 1961.

The performers explained that this event takes place each fall to introduce ensemble members to incoming students and let them know about music programs.

Photos by Jonathan Shoemaker

# Health

## Emotional Support Animal Acceptance

**Victoria Cavillo**
Contributing Writer

Emotional Support Animals (ESA) have been seen as substitute service animals in the past but have recently gained more acceptance. This acceptance has been growing since studies have shown that pets help their owners with mental health issues, such as depression and anxiety.

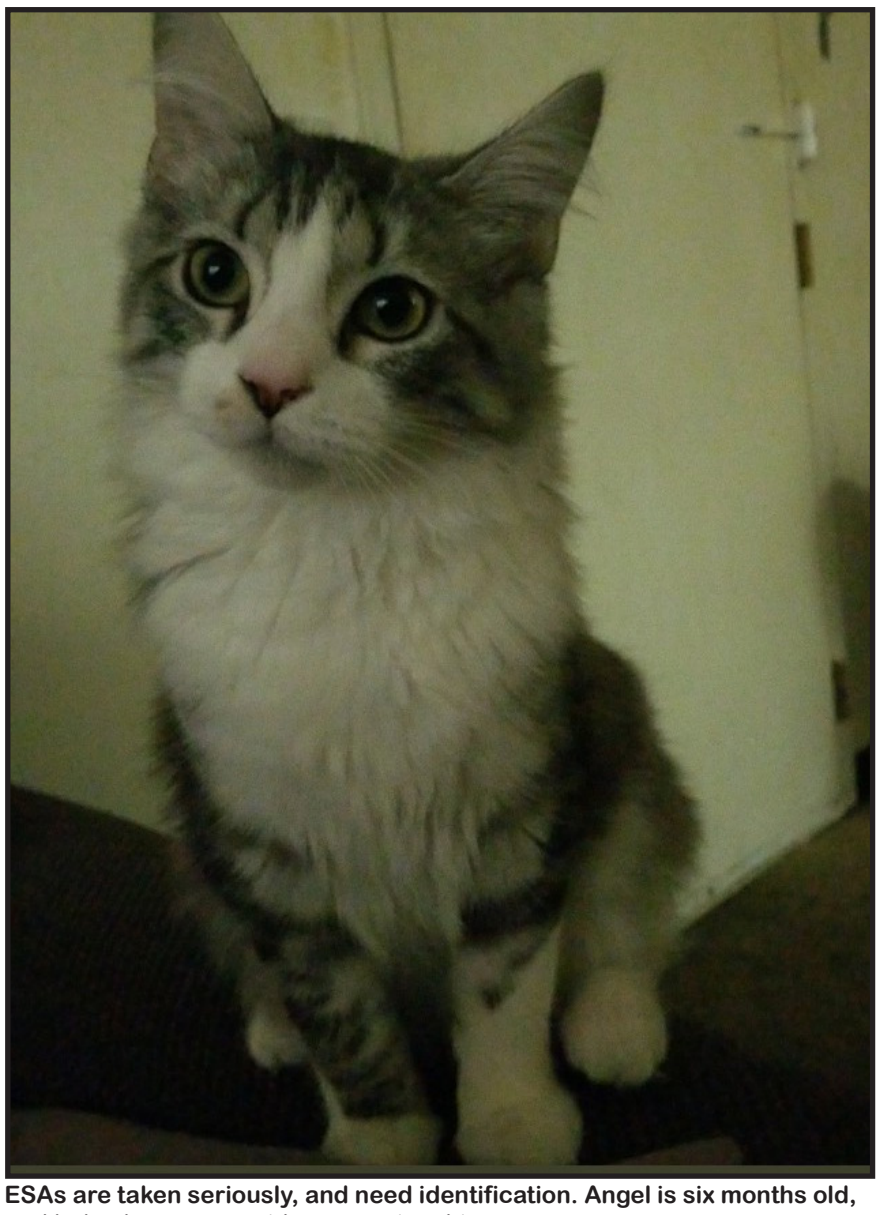
According to Carrington College's student blog, all kinds of pets help their owners battle depression and anxiety, helping distract from the negative thoughts caused by the mental health problems. As a result of the constant care and attention, the pet needs, the ESA allows the owners to feel needed and divert attention to the matters in the present. Carrington College also mentioned that "The researchers found that companion animals not only boost self-esteem, but also provide empathy, initiate social encounters, and serve as a substitute or additional family members."

ESA's can help reduce stress in people as well. It is becoming more common are taking their emotional support animals to college with them, since college can be a very stressful place. The Daily Campus states that ESAs can impact the performance of students, especially ones who have specific conditions. ESAs can help students to relax when stressed about school work. The Daily Campus also mentions that ESAs help students succeed in their daily life on campus, just as much as a service animal would.

In an article from the student newspaper of Northern Kentucky University, The Northerner, a student named Courtney Castle had her dog certified as an ESA; and it helped her battle her social anxiety by forcing her into social situations because of her pet, Oliver, attracted attention to her.

The Northerner also mentions that owners of ESA's need a letter from a psychologist that states that the owner would benefit having their pet as an ESA. However, some believe that pets should not be able to become certified due to privileges that the ESA's give. Skeptics believe that people who certify their animal as an ESA, are scamming the system so they can take their pet with them to certain places, such as living with them on campus. Castle, though, believes that if properly certified, ESAs can be beneficial to people dealing with mental health issues.

Also, there is controversy over whether ESA's should be allowed on campuses. According to a news publication, ESA Doctor, campuses are obligated to allow them under the Fair Housing Act and Rehabilitation Act of 1947. This act says that the ESA provides the owner with therapy through affection/companionship. ESA Doctor also specified that even though the support animal doesn't need any special training like a service animal, the owner does need to show that having their ESA has been helpful with their condition in which they have their ESA. The condition can be mental or physical, limiting the person's everyday life.



Picture from @cupidpoetry

**ESAs are taken seriously, and need identification. Angel is six months old, and helps her owner with companionship.**

Saint Leo University openly allows ESAs for students who live on campus. Katheryn Krzyzanski, who works in Residence Life and is criminal justice major, states, "Yes, they are allowed on campus. I'm not positive if there are restrictions on what type of animals are allowed or not."

Tiffany Nelson, Registered Mental Health Counselor Intern for SLU, commented on ESA.

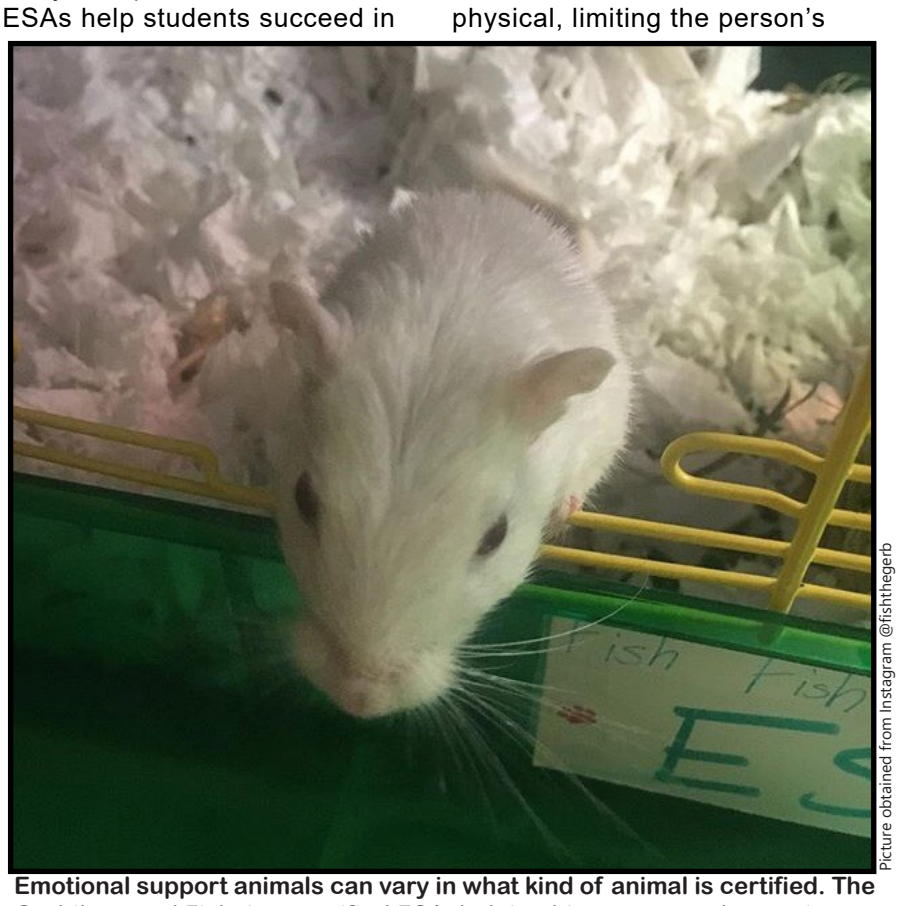
"Yes, absolutely they [ESAs] help. You have the bond between human and animals, which is powerful for anybody, but it can be especially helpful for people dealing with different mental health issues. Especially here, I would say stress, anxiety or depression are some of the more common ones seen on campus."

If someone is unable to get an ESA, Nelson also suggested that there are also alternatives to help combat one's mental health problems.

"There are stress relievers that are unique for each person; like exercise has been shown to be just as effective or more effective than some antidepressant medication also spending time with people you care about so like friends or family members," said Nelson. "Social connections and feeling connected is an amazing way to help deal with that kind of stuff. Your diet plays a part in it, just everyone is unique, and everyone has their own way they deal with stress, but finding what works for you can be really effective. For some people, it can be an emotional support animal, and for others it can be a range of other things."

Although ESA's can be helpful, the decision to bring them on campus should not be taken lightly. They have not had training unlike service animals, and are seen as "reasonable accommodations", according to Study Break, independent online magazine. Study Break also mentions that ESA owners are responsible for damages that are caused by the animal, they have to clean up after the animal, and it is not allowed to keep the ESA in the dorm room all day without any playtime.

It is suggested that students take the time to consider all of their options when it comes to living on campus with an ESA. The owner responsibilities and possible consequences that come from bringing your ESA to live on campus. Even though colleges are obligated to allow ESA's on campus for noncommuters, the student still must get the ESA authorized by their university.




Picture obtained from Instagram @fishthegerb

**Emotional support animals can vary in what kind of animal is certified. The Gerbil, named Fish, is a certified ESA, helping his owner combat anxiety and depression.**

# National

## Trump's Ambitions for America

**Brian Cerosky**
Contributing Writer

Picture from @Whitehouse.gov

**Trump's early cabinet meetings involved discussions about a wide array of topics, but due to the turbulent shifting of the Trump administration due to resignations, cabinet meetings have been much more tense as they fall under the commanding nature of Trump with little interjection.**

After a turbulent nine months in office, President Trump has made some drastic and ambitious decisions in his presidency. From issuing the controversial banning of Muslim immigrants from a set list of Muslim majority countries to the dissolution of DACA, Trump has made headway and encountered some roadblocks in achieving his campaign promises. Unfortunately for the public, and even Congress, for that matter, it is difficult to say what Trump currently wants to do or in what direction he wishes for America to be headed domestically.

Aside from the American Health Care bill and his staunch stance against immigration, little is known about what Trump's plans are for the future. Seemingly, according to various political analysts such as those found at FiveThirtyEight, Politico, and the New York Times, Trump is determined to dismantle Obama's legacy but has so far been unsuccessful. Mr. Frank Orlando, an instructor of political science, expressed concern over the lack of information that Trump is willing to share if he has any information to give at all regarding his plans.

"He would like that (to destroy Obama's legacy) since DACA is something that he did. It's very vague to know what he wants, however. Does anyone know?" said Dr. Orlando.

Orlando commented that Congress is confused as to what Trump would like to accomplish, leading to many Republicans voting against the party, especially in regards to the two attempts at passing the American Health Care Act, and the most recent attempt looking grim for the Republicans in favor as the votes simply aren't there for passage in the Senate, that bill being the newly proposed Graham-Cassidy bill which aims to repeal Obamacare, similar in wording to the prior two attempts. Without partisan support going forward, Republicans may find themselves unable to accomplish much.

What this means for the nation is probably more violence and protest. As seen in Charlottesville just a month prior, white nationalist and anti-fascist groups continue to clash across the country violently as each side had their own opinion on which direction the nation should take.

"Alt-right groups probably feel emboldened (by Trump)" said Dr. Orlando. "But Antifa and the Alt-right help each other."

In essence, Orlando claimed that as white nationalism rises, so does the anti-fascist groups, such as Antifa and Black Lives Matter. It isn't a stretch to say without strong leadership from the executive branch as well as a definitive guiding policy from the top, protests will continue to persist and grow, and potentially escalate as time goes on.

What can be explored is changes Trump has expressed in his campaign, but do not have a definitive plan as of yet. For instance, the idea of bringing back coal mining and manufacturing as well as the larger industrial sector of the American job market. Bringing about more competition among businesses to lower prices on consumer goods. The plan to place a tariff on foreign goods, especially goods from China, to encourage spending on American goods and spur American manufacturing. All of these ideas appeal to Trump and his voter base, but currently, have not been acted upon at this time and do not have a plan to the knowledge of the public.

Another huge plan Trump aimed to accomplish was the construction of a wall, along the US-Mexican border to deter and keep out immigrants coming from Latin America. According to the Washington Post, the wall's construction could cost upwards of $25 billion, most of which would have to be paid using taxpayer's money as Mexico has objected continuously to the idea of themselves footing the bill. So far, no blueprints for said wall have been made, and no one has come forward regarding the dimensions of this wall, aside from Trump himself claiming it would be "impenetrable, physical, tall, powerful, and beautiful."

Recently, Trump did, however, unveil his tax plan. This is a move coming after months of a president seeking to make a fundamental change to America's domestic landscape. Trump has proposed a slash in the corporate tax rate from 35 to 20 percent as an incentive for companies to stay in America versus sending their jobs overseas. Additionally, the president has proposed a new progressive tax plan, the rates being 12 (down from 15), 25 (down from 28), and 35 (down from 39.6) percent respectively from lowest income to highest, with a proposed additional surcharge added onto the wealthiest of Americans. Trump also proposes an effort to simplify the tax code so Americans can file their taxes on a single page.

This is a comprehensive tax cut, one that will plunge America, according to top government economists, $4.2 trillion more into debt. The new plan has members of Congress in support on both sides of the aisle, with more Republicans than Democrats criticizing the plan for its massive debt increase. However, it is projected that this plan will put much more money into the pockets of consumers, lowering the prices of consumer goods as well as giving Americans more money to spend overall.

Time will tell what other plans Trump aims to make. However, those plans may need to be put on hold as Robert Mueller's investigation continues, the object of which is to figure out if there was any connection between the Trump campaign and Russia, specifically if Russia helped elect Donald Trump into office. Trump also has to worry about his constantly shifting staff as more and more cabinet members resign, meaning Trump and his close circle would have to find replacements for key positions in the executive branch, further postponing any plans Trump's formulating with his advisors.

Picture from Wikipedia Commons

**Anti-Trump protests sprang up overnight after news of Trump's sudden plan to cut out DACA. The Obama era policy is responsible for bringing about better living conditions, higher wages, and more participation in the job market from illegal migrant minors.**

# Arts & Entertainment

## "Capcom vs Marvel: Infinite" Releases to Unfortunate Response

**By Travis Farmer**
Staff Writer

The fourth entry in Capcom's incredibly popular fighting game series, "Marvel Vs. Capcom," released on Sep. 19, 2017, to rabid fans long awaiting the game's release, but also to much criticism.

"Marvel vs. Capcom" is a fusion, with characters from Marvel Comic Books along with classic characters from video games produced by Capcom. With superhero characters such as Captain America, Spiderman, and Thor from the Marvel side; and characters like Mega Man, Chris Redfield, and Nemesis from the "Resident Evil" series, Ryu from "Street Fighter," and Dante from "Devil May Cry" representing Capcom.

The story of "Marvel vs. Capcom: Infinite" is straightforward, as is the course for most fighting game story modes. The story is incredibly short, clocking in at only about two to three hours. The story revolves around Sigma, the primary antagonist of the "Mega Man X" series, fusing with Ultron, an "Avengers" villain. By fusing themselves into a single villain named "Ultron-Sigma," they also fuse the two universes together.

Like its predecessors, "Marvel Vs. Capcom" is a two-dimension fighting game, most similar in style to general audiences of "Street Fighter" or "Mortal Kombat." However, to differ from most "standard" fighting games, "Marvel vs. Capcom," is a tag team game. The players control two characters each, with their choice of an infinity stone. Infinity stones are taken from the Marvel side of the story, with every stone having a different power to be used against your opponent. For example, the "power" stone may knock your opponent away from you, interrupting their combo.

The gameplay of "Marvel vs. Capcom" as a series has always been excellent, with "Marvel vs. Capcom 3" being considered one of the greatest fighting games of all time, with its main stages being devoted to the game's competitions at most, if not all major fighting game conventions. "Marvel vs. Capcom: Infinite" unfortunately does not quite live up to the hype next to its predecessor. While "Infinite" does have fantastic gameplay and fighting mechanics, along with the infinity stones system addition, it, unfortunately, cannot live up to the craziness of the three-on-three tag team battle craziness in "Marvel vs. Capcom 3."

One gameplay mechanic the new game does add is the "active switch" character swapping mechanic as opposed to the rigid character swapping of the game's predecessor. This mechanic allows the player to swap between their two fighters whenever they see fit, even in midair or mid-combo. The player can create their own assist move or defensive maneuver using another character's abilities.

The game has encountered much criticism before and even after its release. It still receives more criticism than what is typical for a triple-A high budget mainstream fighting game. Much of the criticism around the game revolves around its art style, described as odd and even ugly, as most of the Marvel characters look very muscular, to the point of deformity.

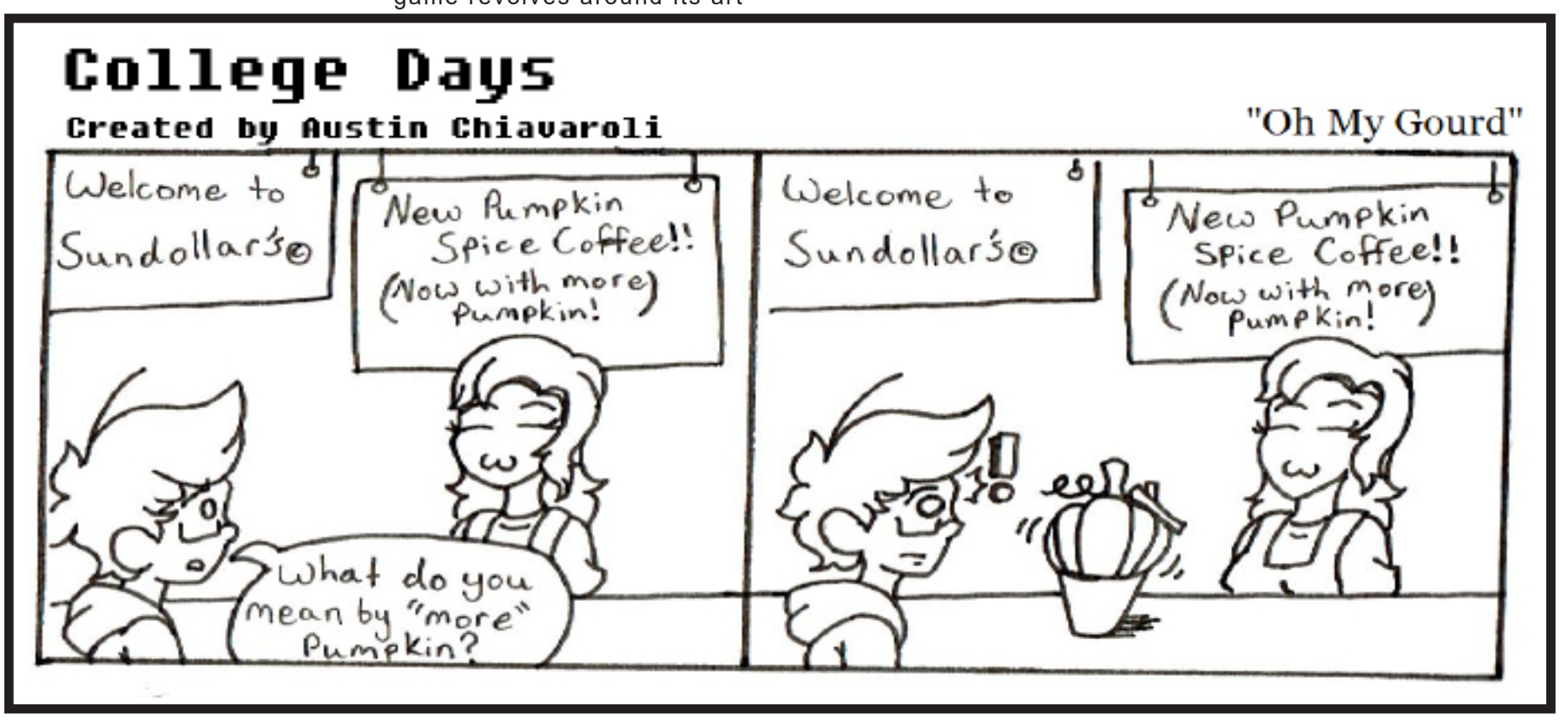
Another shining criticism is that of the very limited and almost uninspired character roster, compared to the other games in the series. All of the Marvel characters are ones that appear in the Marvel Cinematic Universe movies, leading many to believe that Marvel only agreed to add characters to the game that could be advertised. For example, there are no X-Men in the game leading to controversy on if they were not included because Fox Studios currently holds "X-Men" film rights and rather than Marvel. Instead, new characters replaced and replicated old character fighting styles. For example, Black Panther in "Infinite" has a very similar fighting style and move set to Wolverine from "Marvel vs. Capcom 3." There are also complaints pointed towards the Capcom side, with Chris Redfield as the main example. Cited specifically as a problem was the overuse of Redfield in this series, especially when Leon Kennedy, another Resident Evil character, is deemed more interesting.

Many of these problems are exacerbated by the announcement of "Dragon Ball Fighters Z," a new fighting game currently being published in Japan. "Dragon Ball Fighters Z," also a two-dimensional tag team fighting game, hits the high notes in all the areas that "Marvel vs. Capcom: Infinite" appeared to be lacking. It has a visually appealing sharp art style, incredible looking game mechanics, and a nostalgia factor that just makes Marvel look like it was lazy in game making by comparison in the eyes of the fans.

"Marvel vs. Capcom: Infinite" may be a poor follow-up to "Marvel 3;" however, it still comes out as an incredibly strong online competitive fighting game. With any luck, with post-release patches and characters will hopefully resolve the biggest problems with the game in time for it to be shown off at major fighting game tournaments.

Photos by @marvelvsapcom

**"Infinite" is the sixth main entry in the Marvel vs. Capcom crossover game series.**



# Arts & Entertainment

## Fight For Humanity, Glory, and Loot in "Destiny

**By Collin Moran**
Staff Writer

It has been three years since the release of "Destiny," now the sequel is here, and it is a stunning game that will keep players hooked for quite some time.

"Destiny 2" remains in a strong first-person gameplay since the original title but improves the overall experience by adding a much longer campaign with an attention-grabbing story. The new game has significantly improved graphics that make it one of the most visually appealing role-playing games on the market. "Destiny 2" also brings back the same cooperative gameplay experience that lets players team up with friends to complete a wide variety of challenges and missions.

The developer, Bungie has done a great job making a game that stays true to the original "Destiny" gameplay but has been able to improve in nearly every area of the massive online title. "Destiny 2" is a continuation of the first game, but shortly after starting it, the player finds that everything that had been built in the prior campaign is soon destroyed. Starting from scratch will make players feel important, even if they skipped out on the first game.

The campaign offers around 10 hours of play time, and that is without doing side activities and participating in the Crucible player vs. player part of the game. The story puts players in the position of a Guardian, that use a power called the Light to protect earth's last city from different alien races. The new antagonist, the Red Legion army, invade the Last City and strip the Guardians of their Light. Players will then go on throughout the campaign trying to defeat the Red Legion army and regain their Light to take back the Last City.

When creating a guardian, players can choose between the Hunter, Titan, and Warlock classes, all of which have their own special abilities and play styles. The copious amount of gameplay styles is what helps keep "Destiny 2" entertaining even after the campaign is finished. Being able to create new characters keep players striving to reach the maximum level in each of the classes and experience the game in different ways.

The first person shooter aspect of this game may very well be the best in the business. Movements are smooth, and hit detection with weapons is top-notch. For players that are familiar with the Halo series, the gameplay of "Destiny 2" is similar, but it has certainly improved to the likes of rival competitors like the Call of Duty games.

"Destiny" as a series has been forged to constantly be in an online environment, meaning that players will mostly be matched with others to complete objectives and battle enemies. Bungie has done a flawless job with this cooperative experience, there are never any matchmaking screens, with the automatic addition of adding in other players. Teaming up with friends is just as easy by joining a fireteam with up to 6 players to help one another complete missions and compete in events.

For gamers interested in player vs. player game modes, "Destiny 2's" Crucible mode lets guardians face off against each other and play in games that give out loot at the end of each match. It is a fun way to get competitive with other players and earn rewards in the process.

What makes "Destiny 2" such a complete game is that over the next couple of years, the developers at Bungie plan to keep adding on to the title with massive expansions that will reshape the current game. The game is backed by one of the largest online communities and will always be coming out with new events to partake in allowing players to collect an increasing amount of loot.

"Destiny 2" is a true blockbuster of a game that will continue to impress players for years to come. All of the best aspects of the first game have been carried over and improved in the sequel. The Destiny series combines the role-playing game experience and smooth gameplay mechanics of a modern first-person shooter. "Destiny 2" is one of the best games to hit the market this year and will not disappoint gamers.

**Game Review Score:**

**4.5 out of 5 Paws**

Photos by @DestinyTheGame

**RollingStone deems "Destiny 2" "the biggest and most ambitious shooter of the year."**

## Arts in the Park

**By Allison Cobb**
Distribution Manager

The inaugural "Arts in the Park" event will be taking place this Saturday, Oct. 7 at Agnes Lamb Park, Dade City. Students will be able to enjoy this new and exciting feature coming to Dade City with both local and Saint Leo talent performing dance, poetry, comedy, and more, a gallery walk featuring artwork, and interactive arts and crafts for the children! Marissa McLargin, the coordinator for Arts in the Park, told us that "Together, Wendell of Magic Space, Friday Night Open Mic, the Dade City Youth Council, and Saint Leo University's School of Arts and Sciences planned an outdoor event that will feature stage acts and various performances. an arts and a gallery walk highlighting visual arts such as painting and photography."

Attendees can expect to see performers like political science professor Frank Orlando, the rock band Time Warp, the Saint Leo choral group, the student theater group, and much more.

The event will go on rain or shine and can expect to see many smiling faces. Marissa Went on to talk about the immense support that people like Dean Mary Spoto and the School of Arts and Sciences have given to this event, and the arts in general around not only campus but the community.

McLargin noted that "the goal of Arts is the Park is to provide a time and place for the community to celebrate the arts and showcase local talent."

Saturday, Oct. 7 is sure to be an enriching and exciting day to showcase all of our community's talents and passions with art.

Graphic By: Dade City Arts in the Park

### Upcoming Events

**Halloween Horror Nights**

**Location: 6000 Universal Blvd, Orlando, FL 32819**

**Dates: 9/15/17-11/4/17**

**Price: $59.99+**

**Howl-O-Scream**

**Location: 10165 N McKinley Dr, Tampa, FL 33612**

**Dates:9/22/17-10/29/17 (Select Nights)**

**Price: $39.99+**

**Scream-A-Geddon**

**Location: 27839 St Joe Rd, Dade City, FL**

**33525**

**Dates: 9/22/17-11/4/17 (Select Nights)**

**Price: $19.95+**

# Sports

## NBA Preview: The Finals Won't Be The Same

**By Vincent Pensabene**
Sports Editor

The end of one of the most nomadic off-seasons has reached as the NBA has gone into its preseason. This leads to one thing, predictions about where your favorite team's season will end or if your favorite player will play well enough to collect some hardware (for length reasons, this will only include playoff seeding).

With the Eastern Conference looking subpar compared to the West, will LeBron James have a cakewalk to his eight straight finals appearance? Is Lonzo Ball going to be able to bring the Lakers to the playoffs like his father promised on live television? Is the Western Conference going to have enough All-Star slots for their team?

The Western Conference is the most stacked it has ever been, with the West doubling the East in combined All-Star Game selections (141 to 67). 'Superteams' are being assembled to dethrone the reigning champion Golden State Warriors in Oklahoma City and Houston. With the champs keeping the same roster, except for acquiring Nick Young, the rest of the NBA seemed to be in a frenzy. Chris Paul was traded to the Houston Rockets for almost half of Houston's roster while both Paul George and Carmelo Anthony were traded to the Oklahoma City Thunder to team with reigning-MVP Russell Westbrook. The San Antonio Spurs added veteran Rudy Gay to their team as they look to win 50 plus games for a record nineteenth consecutive season and be a force in the postseason. The Minnesota Timberwolves added Jimmy Butler on draft day with a huge trade with the Chicago Bulls to add to Karl-Anthony Towns and Andrew Wiggins. This is how the Western Conference playoff picture will end up:

1. Golden State Warriors
2. San Antonio Spurs
3. Oklahoma City Thunder
4. Houston Rockets
5. Minnesota Timberwolves
6. Memphis Grizzlies
7. New Orleans Pelicans
8. Portland Trail Blazers

The Eastern Conference is very top-heavy with 66 percent of the All-Star appearances remaining in the East belonging to either players of the Cleveland Cavaliers or Boston Celtics. The Boston Celtics have practically overhauled their team this offseason returning only four players from last year's roster, which is the first time in NBA history only 4 players returned after the team made the conference finals the previous year. Their key acquisition was Kyrie Irving from Cleveland after Irving demanded a trade to "become a true point guard". The Celtics acquired Gordon Hayward by way of free agency and solid role players like Aron Baynes and Marcus Morris as well. The Cleveland Cavaliers have arguably gotten better than last year's team that lost to Golden State in the finals in five games. The Cavaliers acquired Isaiah Thomas, Jae Crowder, & the Brooklyn Nets' first-round draft pick for Kyrie Irving as well as signing former MVP Derrick Rose and Dwayne Wade. The Nets first-round pick is projected to be very valuable and the Cavaliers will be faced with an interesting decision to either keep the pick and draft a player next year or trade the pick to a team for a big-time player, which can shift the entire league. The rest of the conference either stayed put or has gotten worse through the offseason so here is the Eastern Conference playoff picture:

1. Boston Celtics
2. Cleveland Cavaliers
3. Toronto Raptors
4. Washington Wizards
5. Milwaukee Buck
6. Miami Heat

Photo courtesy of: @SLAMonline

**The NBA rookies look to reap havok on the rest of the league.**

### Upcoming Games Week Ending 10/6/17 - 10/12/17

**Men's Soccer**
10/7- @ Lynn 6:00p.m.

**Women's Soccer**
10/7- vs Lynn 6:00 p.m.
10/10- @ Lenoir Rhyne (Hickory, N.C.) 2:00 p.m.

**Cross Country M/W**
10/7-@Disney Classic (Kissimee, Fla.) 7:40 a.m.

**Women's Volleyball**
10/6-vs Lynn (Alumni Game) 7:00 p.m.
10/10- vs Florida Southern 7:00 p.m.

## Fantasy Football Best Performers (Week 5)

**By Collin Moran**
Contributing Writer

Week Five in the NFL season is already here and now owners get to deal with the inconvenience of bye weeks. This weekend the Saints, Redskins, Falcons, and Broncos will all get a rest, and that means there are plenty of good players who won't be in lineups. With fewer teams playing this coming Sunday it is harder to find quality sleeper candidates, but you may already have some stashed away on your bench. Here is your list of sleepers for Week Five.

Shane Vereen, RB New York Giants:

It is usually in owner's best interest to stay away from the Giants backfield, but this week there is a chance for a low profile player to put up some solid numbers. Vereen is known for his work as a third-down back, but with injuries to both Orleans Darkwa and Paul Perkins, the veteran running back may have to take the team lead in touches. The New York rushing attack has been nothing short of awful this season, but they get a great matchup this weekend against a Chargers defense that has allowed 163 yards per game to opposing backfields. Giants running backs have combined for a mere 3.2 yards per carrying and the only rushing touchdown of the season went to quarterback Eli Manning. After hearing both sides of the argument, don't expect a huge game from Vereen. The passing down back should see extended action due to the injuries and has a great matchup to possibly find the end zone. Consider Vereen to be a low-end flex option with the hope he gets a touchdown in a great matchup even with rookie running back Wayne Gallman lurking.

J.J. Nelson, WR Arizona Cardinals:

Except for Larry Fitzgerald, it is very hard to trust anything in the Cardinals offense nowadays. They are stuck with a running back by committee, and they seem to flip-flop which wide receiver is the top target each week. Luckily for anyone who owns Arizona wide receivers, they get a great matchup against an Eagles team that is allowing just over 300 receiving yards each game. The favorite receiver this week besides Larry Fitzgerald should be the speedster, J.J. Nelson. Known more for his boom or bust play style (18 catches of 20-plus yards on 58 career receptions), he has a good shot to break away for a long score this week. Last week I predicted Chargers wide receiver Tyrell Williams to have a solid game against the Eagles defense, and he went on to score a 75-yard touchdown reception. I predict the same outcome for Nelson this weekend against the same mediocre secondary. Throw Nelson in the flex spot and watch for that long touchdown catch.

Kenny Stills, WR Miami Dolphins:

Miami is another offense that owners should probably want nothing to do with. The Dolphins have scored a combined six points over their last two games, and no one in the offense is doing anything worth talking about. Quarterback Jay Cutler has not looked great, and the run game has been ineffective, so why would anyone want to start a Dolphin this week? The good news is that the offense can only get better and hopefully that starts this week against the Titans. Last year, Kenny Stills scored nine touchdowns and averaged a little over 17 yards per catch making him a great deep threat for the Miami passing attack, and while they haven't been able to exploit his deep ball skills yet, this may be the week it finally happens. The Titans have given up a whopping 11 receiving touchdowns this season and Stills may be able to increase that number. The fifth-year receiver has not been used on deep balls much this season, but something has to change in this offense, and it could be the week Jay Cutler finds Stills in the end zone. Consider Stills to have some nice touchdown upside as a flex option this game.

Brian Hoyer, QB San Francisco 49ers: Frankly, there are some much better quarterback fill-ins out on the waiver wire than Hoyer, but with a great matchup this week, the veteran may be able to provide solid results for those willing to take the risk on starting him. The Indianapolis Colts possess one of the worst secondaries in all of football and have given up nearly 285 yards per game to opposing quarterbacks. The 49ers offense has been everything except good this season, but they have faced a solid defense every week so far.

This will be the first game where the Kyle Shanahan coached 49ers will face a defense they can take full advantage (besides the Rams in Week Three). He isn't the safest starter but he scored 26 fantasy points against L.A. just two weeks ago, and a nice multi-touchdown game looks to be in store against one of the worst defenses in football this weekend.

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